

Horseman scores match-winner for Wycombe

Sports Mail Special Report

MAIDSTONE UTD. 1 : WYCOMBE W. 2

WYCOMBE Wanderers defeated a robust but not particularly skilful bottom-of-the-table Maidstone side 2-1 when they met at Maidstone in an Isthmian League clash this afternoon.

Maidstone: Shed; Wiltshire, Howe; Archer, Gaston, Luckhurst; McGibbon, Burnett, Dorey, L. Brown, Jenman.

Wycombe: Horseman; Pullin, James; Ashby, Worley, Gale; Fisher, Thomas, Lewis, Beck, Brown.

Referee: Mr. H. E. Jones (Woking)

Wycombe Wanderers attacked first and Thomas centred for Ashby to head just wide. Maidstone retaliated and when Fisher missed the ball Maidstone had a chance but Thomas cleared.

Worley opened up a gap but Thomas' shot was just tipped over the bar. Burnett then burst through but Brown beat him to the ball.

Ken Brown was penalised for carrying the ball outside the area but it only served to set up a fruitless Wycombe attack.

Wycombe were doing most of the attacking and shooting at every opportunity, but so far they had not extended goalkeeper Wiltshire.

Worley put Ashby through with a superb pass but Gaston beat him to the ball.

From a free kick given away by Fisher, Gaston shot just over the bar.

Dorey sent in a good shot for which Brown had to dive full length, pushing it round for a corner.

Brown then pushed a Jenman shot over the bar and from the corner McGibbon shot wide. From a low Worley centre Archer nearly headed into his own net.

Worley, Thomas and Ashby combined beautifully but from

Ashby's centre James headed wide.

Half-time: Maidstone 0, Wycombe 0.

Two minutes after the interval centre-forward PETER JAMES put Wycombe ahead when he smashed the ball home after receiving a long through ball from left half Gale. Maidstone came back and Burnett went through but shot too high.

Warnett also went close with a good shot. After a Worley corner the ball went across the face of the goal for Horseman to hit a hard shot narrowly wide.

Wycombe were doing most of the forcing now thanks to clever prompting by their defence in which Gale and Thomas were outstanding.

Maidstone did go close, however, when a shot hit the top of the Wycombe bar after a series of mis-hits in the Wycombe area. Left winger JENMAN latched on to a loose ball to smash home the equaliser.

Wycombe went back into the lead a few minutes later when Fisher headed a Worley corner on to James, who in turn headed it on for HORSEMAN to tap home.

Wycombe should have made it three when James squared it back but Ashby headed against the post. Maidstone never really challenged Wycombe now and the game came to a close with Wycombe attacking strongly.

RESULT:

MAIDSTONE 1
WYCOMBE WANDERERS 2

HORSEMAN IS THE HERO

Maidstone 1 Wycombe 2

THERE was little to choose between these teams, though Wycombe generally showed better team work and ball control.

Maidstone played with plenty of enthusiasm and made strenuous efforts to improve their rather dismal record this season. But speed and enthusiasm were not enough—a little more steadiness and less hurried use of the ball would have served them better.

Wiltshire, the Maidstone goalkeeper, did well when he tipped a 20-yard drive from Thomas over the bar and also when he cut out a dangerous cross by James. But generally the shooting of both sides lacked precision.

A free kick by Gaston skimmed the Wycombe crossbar with Brown out of position, but the keeper was on the spot when he went down to turn a good shot from Dorey round the post—and when he tipped a drive from Genman over the bar.

Wycombe took the lead immediately after the interval when James picking up a long through pass from Gale, beat Wiltshire with a well-placed shot.

With Wycombe becoming a little erratic Maidstone put on the pressure and after Archer had hit the crossbar Genman equalised.

But Wycombe quickly recovered and Horseman scored their winner.